

INSPECTION REPORT  
April 12, 1977

Mesa No. 2 Mine  
Navajo Allotted Lease  
14-20-0603-7240  
McKinley County, New Mexico

U. S. Geological Survey  
Conservation Division  
Area Mining Supervisor  
Southern Rocky Mountain Area  
P. O. Box 1716  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

Dale C. Jones  
Mining Engineer  
May 5, 1977

The Mesa No. 2 Mine was examined April 12, 1977, to verify reports that the abandoned mine's incline portal was not sealed. The writer was accompanied temporarily by George Warnock, President of Todilto Exploration and Development Corporation (Tedco). Tedco currently strip mines uranium ore from the nearby Haystack Mine which is located on property owned by the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company.

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The Mesa No. 2 Mine is located at the base of Haystack Mountain in the southwest quarter of Section 18, T~~1~~<sup>2</sup>N, R10W, NMPM, McKinley County, New Mexico (Map A). It can be reached by traveling Highway 66 north from Grants for approximately 17.5 miles and then a dirt road east for about 5 miles.

The quarter-section tract was formerly Navajo Allotted Uranium Mining Lease 14-20-0603-7240 which expired under its own terms October 12, 1972. The last operator of record was Cibola Mining Company which acquired the lease April 16, 1966, via assignment from Mesa Mining Company (Homer Scriven, General Manager). About 15 years prior to that, the mine was operated by Federal Uranium Company for approximately 4 years and was known as the Federal Mine. The land is not presently under lease.

The ore produced by the mining operations was located in the Todilto Limestone of Lake Jurassic Age. Production was evidently sporadic, ranging from 100 to 300 tons of ore per month according to a USGS mine inspection report of June 2, 1964. Records in this office show that Cibola Mining Company produced 141.25 tons of ore from the property in June and August of 1966 and that no further production was obtained after August 1966. According to various USGS memorandum and mine inspection reports dated as late as March 28, 1969, the mining property had not been satisfactorily conditioned for abandonment, and efforts to contact officials of the Cibola Mining Company were unsuccessful.

According to mine maps and Bureau of Mines' Health and Safety Inspection Reports, the mine consisted of two adjacent, but unconnected, underground workings which were developed through separate declines. The workings extended from the declines to the northwest, south and southwest, with the majority of the mining apparently occurring under Haystack Mountain. The northeast incline is about 280 feet long on a downgrade of approximately 22 degrees. It was equipped with a 60-horsepower, diesel-driven hoist for handling material only. The southwest decline is about 420 feet southwest of the northeast decline and was approximately 55 feet long on a gentle downgrade of perhaps about 10 degrees. This incline does not appear to have been equipped with a hoist. There were two buildings near the northeast decline, but they were removed sometime in 1964. One small plywood and tin building is still located near the southwest decline.

The portal of the southwest decline has been sealed, apparently by backfilling the opening with waste rock and dirt. Some timbering has been placed on top of the fill to support part of the portal, but there are no visible means of entry into the mine workings. The rock around the portal brow could be dangerous. The beginning cut of the incline remains open but does not appear to be dangerous as the cut is in consolidated rock. Garbage, evidently from nearby residences, is accumulating in the cut. A large pile of dirt, and possibly waste rock, is located at the entrance of the cut.

The northeast incline is partially sealed by a small cave-in at the portal, but it would be possible, and very dangerous, to enter the mine workings. The ground around the portal appears to be mostly very unconsolidated dirt which could cave very easily. This creates a safety hazard due to the close proximity of occupied residences. A flat-topped pad of waste rock and timbers is located near the incline entrance and evidently accommodated the diesel hoist. Directly behind this pad to the southeast is a small concrete pad which was evidently the floor of the small general purpose building. A low waste dump is situated southeast of the incline.

The surface area around the inclines has been distorted by various roads, grading, etc. The writer did not find any of the mine's ventilation holes, but past USGS inspection reports indicate that there are several which still remain open. The writer also did not inspect a deep trench that is about 500 feet southeast of the southwest decline. According to a USGS inspection report, this trench was made by Cibola Mining Company and abandoned by order of the State Mine Inspector. The condition of this trench is not known, but it is assumed that it too remains open.

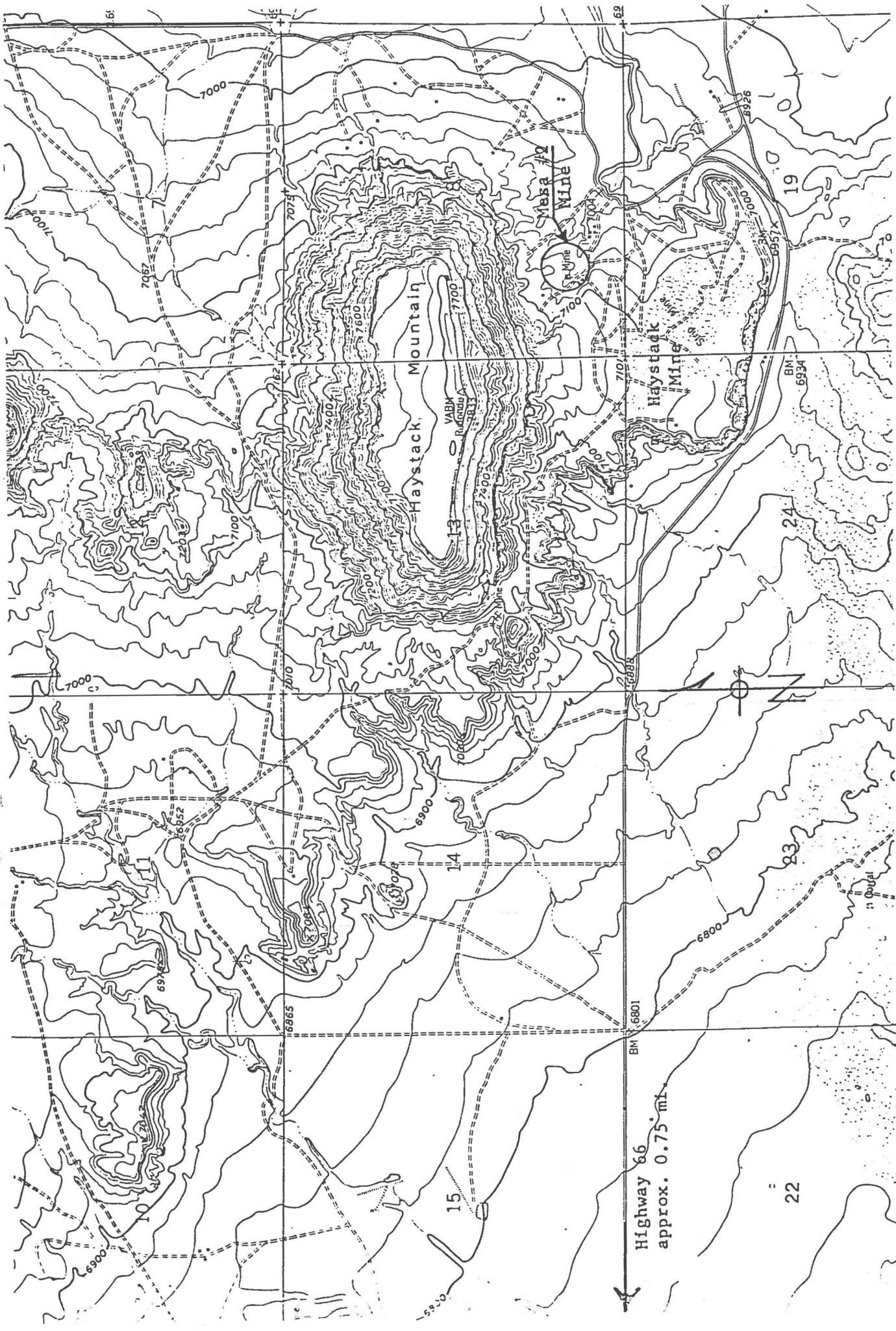
As previously stated, the involved lands are not currently under lease. The previous lease expired October 12, 1972, and it is assumed that the \$2000 surety bond was also cancelled at that time. The BIA will be contacted about the exact status of the bond. However, the condition of the northeast incline constitutes a serious safety hazard, and the writer recommends ~~that the writer recommends~~ that the appropriate agency take immediate action to mitigate this situation. Specifically, the northeast incline portal area should be fenced to prevent access, and all ventilation holes should be located to determine their condition as they too may require fencing. In addition, the deep trench made by Cibola Mining Company should be located to determine if any immediate mitigative measures are necessary.

Mr. Warnock expressed interest in obtaining a lease on the mining property. Perhaps it would be in the best interests of the landowner, in regards to both safety and potential royalty income, to consider the negotiation of a mining lease with Tedco. As mentioned previously, Tedco operates the Haystack Mine about 0.5 miles to the south-southwest.

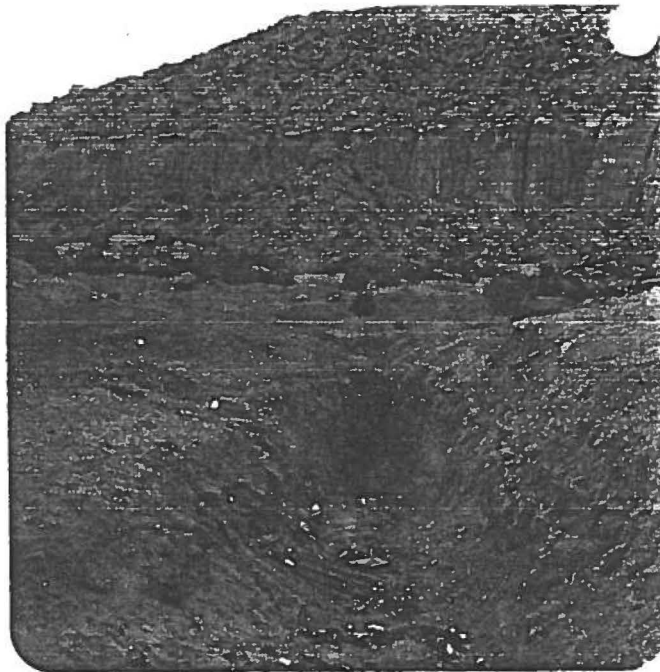
Dale C. Jones  
Mining Engineer

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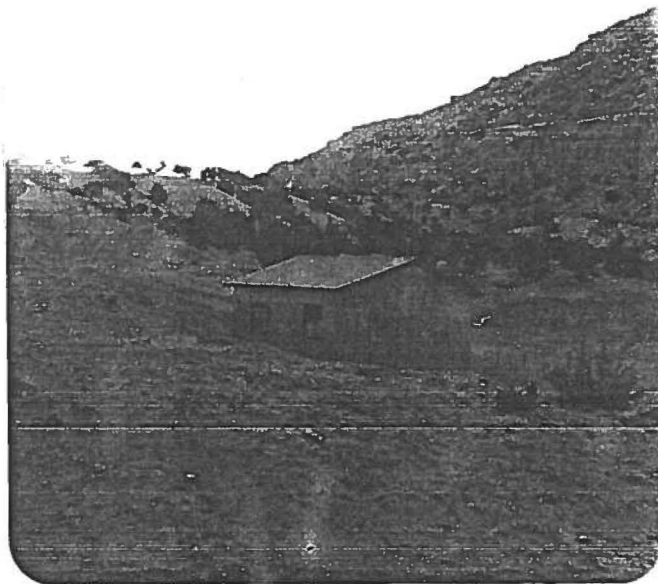
Orig. to: Superintendent, Eastern Navajo Agency, BIA  
cc: Area Director, Navajo Area Office, BIA  
Chief, Branch of Mining Operations, USGS  
Through: Conservation Manager, Central Region, USGS  
Area Mining Supervisor, SRMA, USGS  
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Map A  
Mine Location Map



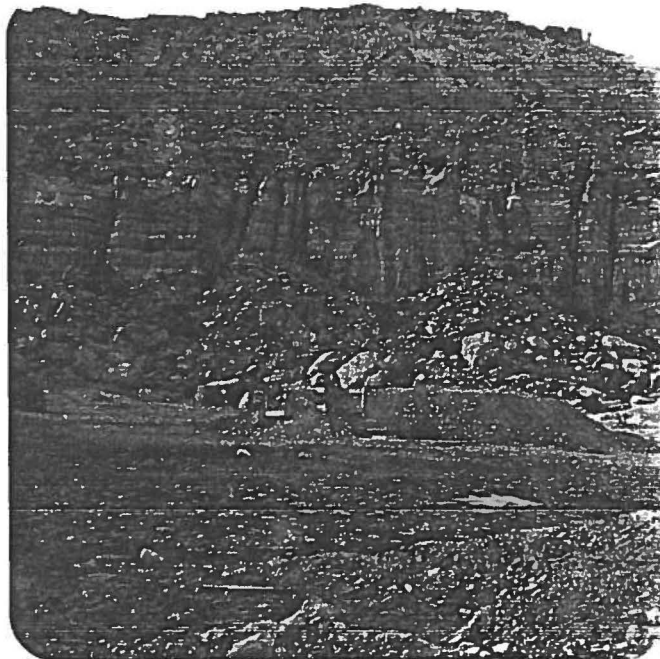
Southwest incline of Mesa No. 2 Mine  
(looking NNW); Haystack Mountain in background



Small mine building near southwest  
incline shown in photo above

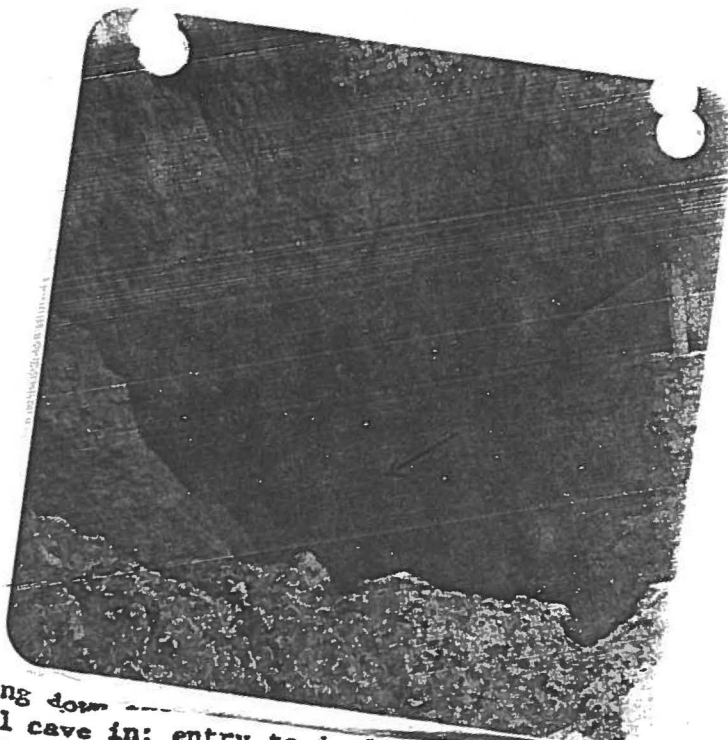


Northeast incline of Mesa No. 2 Mine (looking NNW from top of hoist pad). Base of Haystack Mountain in background; Timbers of hoist pad visible in lower left corner of photo

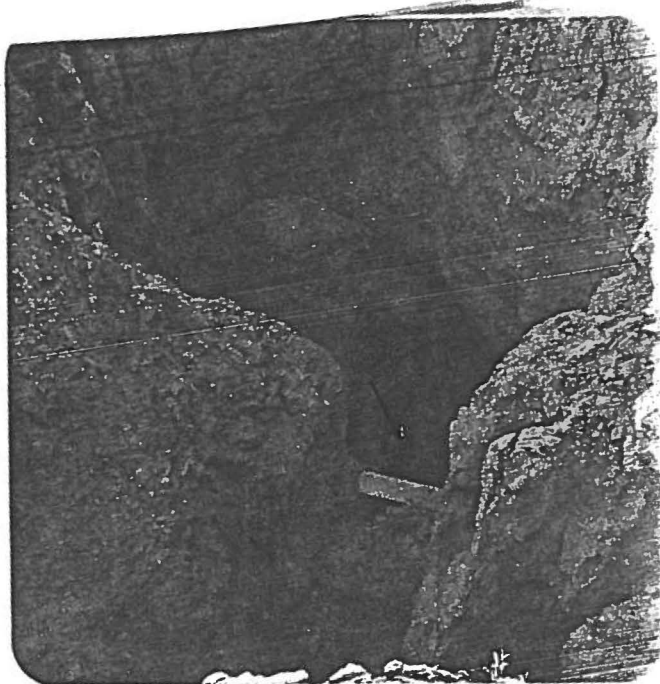


Hoist pad directly behind northeast incline; Haystack Mountain in background; part of waste dump visible in lower right corner of photo





Looking down  
portal cave in; entry to incline possible through  
hole (arrow)



Same as photo above from a different angle; hole  
(arrow) is the same as in photo above